

REMARKS

The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error at pages 4, 10 and 12, as well as to insert an equation number (4) at page 11. The Equation (4) is referred to subsequently in the text (e.g., see page 14, line 9), and this amendment thus removes any possibility of ambiguity arising during a reading of the specification.

The objection to claims 4-10 and 14-20 is noted with appreciation. Claims 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 14, 16, 18, 19 and 20 have each been rewritten into independent form, and claims 4-10 and 14-20 should all be found to be in condition for allowance.

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matthews et al. (US 6,084,858).

Without admitting that the Applicant is in agreement with the Examiner's rationale for rejecting these claims based on Matthews et al., claims 1 and 11 have been amended in a somewhat similar manner to state, as in claim 1, that the method includes "distributing information concerning the calculated connectivity metric using a routing protocol packet", and that the computer program includes, as in claim 11, "a further computer program code segment for sending information concerning a calculated connectivity metric to at least one other network node using a routing protocol packet." Claim 22 is cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

A similar disclosure is not seen to present in Matthews et al., such as at col. 6, lines 6-16 (without admitting that this portion of Matthews et al. describes the claimed subject matter of, as in claim 1, "distributing information concerning the calculated connectivity metric").

Claims 1-3, 11-13, 21 and 22 are thus deemed to be in condition for allowance as well.

It is noted that the foregoing amendments are not to be construed as indicating that the Applicant is in agreement with the Examiner's arguments with regard to the independent or the dependent

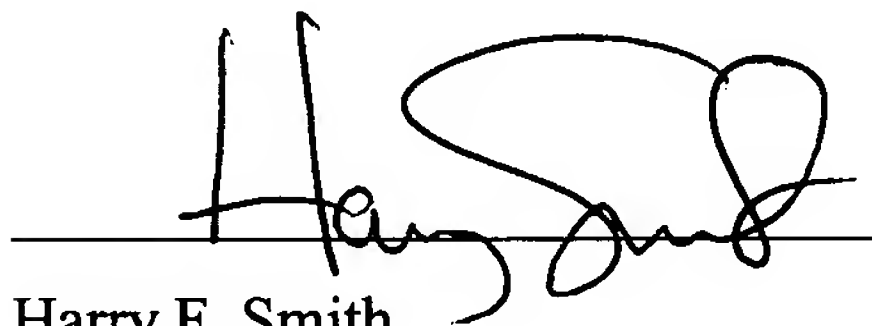
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claims. As but one example, it is not admitted that the Network Management Server (NMS)-based network architecture of Matthews et al. would make obvious the claimed subject matter of, for example, claim 3: "where estimating [the link bandwidth] uses a model of a Bluetooth network medium access control MAC algorithm".

Claims 23-28 are newly added, and are also deemed to be in condition for allowance for at least the reasons given above.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) based on Matthews et al., and to allow all of the pending claims 1-21 and 23-28 as now presented for examination. An early notification of the allowability of all of the pending claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted:



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